**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace the first full paragraph on page 2, lines 6-13, with the following new paragraph:

It has been argued that valve repair is preferable to valve replacement if the leaflet-chordae-papillary connections can be maintained. Heart wall stress will increase if the chordae are cut during valve replacement. It has been shown that by severing the chordae there can be 30 percent (30%) reduction in chamber function. Mitral valve replacement has high mortality [morality] in very sick, chronic heart failure patients.

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